

**fluid ounce**  
—  
**fluting**



flute

fly agaric  
*Amanita muscaria*flycatcher  
great crested flycatcher  
*Myiarchus crinitus*

flying boat

chanics concerned with the properties of gases and liquids.  
**fluid ounce** *n.* 1. A unit of volume or capacity in the US Customary System, used in liquid measure, equal to 29.57 milliliters (1.804 cubic inches). 2. A unit of volume or capacity in the British Imperial System, used in liquid and dry measure, equal to 28.41 milliliters (1.734 cubic inches).

**fluke** <sup>1</sup> (*flūk*) *n.* 1. Any of various flatfishes, esp. a flounder of the genus *Paralichthys*. 2. See *trematode*. [ME < OE *flōc*. See *plāk*<sup>1</sup> in App.]

**fluke** <sup>2</sup> (*flūk*) *n.* 1. *Nautical* The triangular blade at the end of an arm of an anchor, designed to catch in the ground. 2. A barb or barbed head, as on an arrow. 3. Either of the two horizontally flattened divisions of a whale's tail. [Poss. < FLUKE<sup>1</sup>.]

**fluke** <sup>3</sup> (*flūk*) *n.* 1. A stroke of good luck. 2. A chance occurrence; an accident. 3. *Games* An accidentally good or successful stroke in billiards or pool. [?]

**fluky** also **fluky** (*flūk'ē*) *adj.* -i·er, -i·est 1. Resulting from or depending on mere chance. 2. Constantly shifting; uncertain. [*< FLUKE<sup>1</sup>*] —**fluky** *adv.* —**fluky** *ness n.*

**flume** (*flūm*) *n.* 1. A narrow gorge, usu. with a stream flowing through it. 2. An open artificial channel or chute carrying a stream of water, as for conveying logs. 3. A small swimming pool designed with a propeller or pump to generate a current, allowing a swimmer to swim in place. [ME *flum*, river < OFr. < Lat. *flumen* < *fluer*, to flow.]

**flum·mer·y** (*flūm'ərē*) *n., pl. -ries* 1. Meaningless or deceptive language; humbug. 2a. Any of several soft, sweet, bland foods, such as custard. b. A sweet gelatinous pudding made by straining boiled oatmeal or flour. c. A soft dessert of stewed, thickened fruit, often mixed with a grain such as rice. [Welsh *lymru*, soft jelly from sour oatmeal.]

**flum·mox** (*flūm'əks*) *n.v.* -moxed, -mox·ing, -mox·es *Informal* To confuse; perplex. [Prob. of E. dialectal orig.]

**flung** (*flūng*) *v.* Past tense and past participle of *fling*.

**flu·ni·traz·e·pam** (*flū-nī-trāz'ē-pām*) *n.* An illegal sedative drug,  $C_{11}H_{12}FN_3O_2$ , known for its use as a date-rape drug. [FLU(ORO)- + NITRO(O) - + (DI)AZEPAM.]

**flunk** (*flūngk*) *Informal v.* flunked, flunk·ing, flunks —*intr.* To fail, esp. in a course or an examination. —*tr.* 1. To fail (an examination or course). 2. To give a failing grade to. ♦ *n.* 1. The act or an instance of flunking. 2. A failing grade. —**phrasal verb:** flunk out To expel or be expelled from a school or course because of work below standard. [?] —**flunk'er n.**

**flun·ky** also **flun·key** (*flūng'kē*) *n., pl. -ties also -keys* 1. A person of slavish or unquestioning obedience; a lackey. 2. One who does menial or trivial work; drudge. 3. A liveried manservant. [Sc., perh. < FLANKER, an attendant at one's flank.] —**flun·ky·ism n.**

**flu·or** (*flūōōr'*, -*ər*) *n.* See *fluorite*. [NLat., mineral belonging to a group used as fluxes < Lat., a flowing < *fluere*, to flow.]

**fluor-** *pref.* Variant of *fluoro-*.

**fluor·resce** (*flūōōrēs*, *flōōrēs*, *flōōrē*) *intr.v.* -resced, -resc·ing, -resces To undergo, produce, or show fluorescence. [Back-formation < FLUORESCENCE.] —**fluor·rescer n.**

**fluor·re·se·cē·in** (*flūōōrēsēēn*, *flōōrēsēēn*, *flōōrē*) *n.* A compound,  $C_{20}H_{12}O_6$ , that exhibits intense fluorescence in alkaline solution and is used in medicine and to trace water flow.

**fluor·re·sē·nce** (*flūōōrēsēns*, *flōōrē*, *flōōrē*) *n.* 1. The emission of electromagnetic radiation, esp. of visible light, stimulated in a substance by the absorption of incident radiation and persisting only as long as the stimulating radiation is continued. 2. The property of emitting such radiation. 3. The radiation so emitted. [FLUOR(SPAR) + -SCENCE.]

**fluor·re·sē·nt** (*flūōōrēsēnt*, *flōōrē*, *flōōrē*) *adj.* 1a. Of or relating to fluorescence. b. Exhibiting or produced by fluorescence: fluorescent plankton. 2. Glowing as if with fluorescence; vivid: fluorescent colors. ♦ *n.* A fluorescent lamp.

**fluorescent lamp** *n.* A lamp that produces visible light by fluorescence, esp. a glass tube whose inner wall is coated with a material that fluoresces when an electrical current causes a vapor within the tube to discharge electrons.

**fluor·i·date** (*flūōōrē-dāt*, *flōōrē*, *flōōrē*) *tr.v.* -dat·ed, -dat·ing, -dates To add a fluorine compound to (a drinking water supply, for example) for the purpose of reducing tooth decay. —**fluor·i·da·tion n.**

**fluor·ide** (*flūōōrēd*, *flōōrē*, *flōōrē*) *n.* A binary compound of fluorine with another element. [FLUORINE + -IDE.]

**fluor·i·na·tion** (*flūōōrē-nā-shōn*, *flōōrē*, *flōōrē*) *n.* A chemical reaction that introduces fluorine into a compound.

**fluor·ine** (*flūōōrēn*, *in*, *flōōrē*, *flōōrē*) *n. Symbol F* A highly corrosive poisonous gaseous halogen element, the most reactive of all the elements, used in a wide variety of industrially important compounds. Atomic number 9; atomic weight 18.9984; melting point: -223°C; boiling point: -188.14°C; specific gravity of liquid: 1.108 (at boiling point); valence: 1. See table at element.

**fluor·ite** (*flūōōrēt*, *flōōrē*, *flōōrē*) *n.* A mineral,  $CaF_2$ , that is often fluorescent in ultraviolet light.

**fluor·o-** or **fluor-** *pref.* 1. Fluorine; fluorosis. 2. Fluorescence; fluoroscope. [*< FLUORINE* and *< FLUOR*.]

**fluor·o·car·bon** (*flūōōrō-kār'bōn*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* An inert liquid or gaseous halocarbon compound in which fluorine replaces

some or all hydrogen atoms, used in aerosol propellants and refrigerants and in making plastics and resins.

**fluor·o·chem·i·cal** (*flūōōrō-kēm'ē-kəl*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* A chemical compound containing fluorine, esp. a fluorocarbon.

**fluor·o·chrom·e** (*flūōōrō-krōm'*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* Any of a group of fluorescent dyes used to stain biological specimens.

**fluor·o·rog·ra·phy** (*flūōōrō-rōg'rā-fē*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* See *photography*.

**fluor·o·rom·e·ter** (*flūōōrō-rōm'ē-tər*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* An instrument to detect and measure fluorescence. —**fluor·o·rom'ē·try n.**

**fluor·o·scope** (*flūōōrō-skōp'*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* An x-ray device equipped with a fluorescent screen on which the internal structures of an optically opaque object may be continuously viewed as shadowy images. ♦ *tr.v.* -scoped, -scop·ing, -scopes To examine the interior of (an object) with a fluoroscope. —**fluor·o·scop·ic** (*flūōōrō-skōp'ik*) *adj.*

**fluor·o·ros·co·py** (*flūōōrō-rōs'kō-pē*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* An examination by means of a fluoroscope. —**fluor·o·ros·co·pist n.**

**fluor·o·ro·sis** (*flūōōrō-rōs'*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* An abnormal condition caused by excessive intake of fluorine, characterized chiefly by mottling of the teeth. —**fluor·o·rot·ic** (*flūōōrō-rōt'ik*) *adj.*

**fluor·o·u·ra·cil** (*flūōōrō-yōōrō-sil*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* An antiseptic agent,  $C_6H_5FN_3O_2$ , used esp. in the treatment of cancers of the skin, breast, and digestive system.

**fluor·o·spā·r** (*flūōōrō-spār'*, *flōōrō*, *flōōrō*) *n.* See *fluorite*.

**fluox·e·tine hydrochloride** (*flōōrō-ōk'si-tēn'*) *n.* An oral depressant that enhances the activity of serotonin in the central nervous system. [Prob. FLU(ORO)- + alteration of OXY- + INE.]

**flur·ry** (*flūrē*, *flürē*) *n., pl. -ries* 1. A brief light snowfall. 2a. A sudden gust of wind. b. A stirring mass, as of dust; a shower. 3. A sudden burst or commotion; a stir. 4. A short period of active trading, as on a stock exchange. ♦ *v.* -ried, *ri*-y·ing, -ries *tr.* To agitate, stir, or confuse. —*intr.* To move or come down. ♦ *n.* Flurry. [Perh. < *flur*, to scatter.]

**flush** <sup>1</sup> (*flūsh*) *v.* flushed, flush·ing, flush·es —*intr.* 1. To turn red, as from fever, embarrassment, or strong emotion; blush. 2. To glow, esp. with a reddish color. 3. To flow suddenly and abundantly, as from containment; flood. 4. To be emptied or cleaned by a rapid flow of water, as a toilet. —*tr.* 1. To cause to reddish or glow. 2. To excite or elate. 3a. To clean, rinse, or empty by a rapid flow of a liquid, esp. water. b. To remove or eliminate, or as if by flushing. ♦ *n.* 1a. A flooding flow or rush, as of water. b. The act of cleaning or rinsing by or as if by flushing. 2. A red or glow. 3a. A reddening of the skin, as with fever or exertion. b. A brief sensation of heat over all or part of the body. 4. A red or strong feeling. 5. A state of freshness or vigor. ♦ *adj.* flushed.

**flush** <sup>2</sup> (*flūsh*) *v.* flushed, flush·ing, flush·es —*intr.* 1. To turn red, as from fever, embarrassment, or strong emotion; blush. 2. To have an abundant supply of money; affluent. 3. Marked by elegance; plentiful. 4. Swelling; overflowing. 5a. Having surfaces in the same plane; even. b. Arranged with adjacent sides, surfaces, or edges close together. c. Printing Aligned evenly with a margin, as along an edge of a typeset page; not indented. 6. Direct, straightforward, or solid. 7. Designed to be emptied or cleaned by flushing. ♦ *adv.* 1. So as to be even, in one plane, or aligned by flushing. 2. Squarely or solidly. [Prob. < *FLUX*.] —*flush'er n.* —*flush'ness n.*

**flush** <sup>3</sup> (*flūsh*) *n.* Games A hand in which all the cards are of same suit but not in numerical sequence. [Fr. *flux*, flux < Lat. *fluxus*, flux. See FLUX.]

**flush** <sup>4</sup> (*flūsh*) *v.* flushed, flush·ing, flush·es —*tr.* 1. To drive (a game bird, for example) from cover. 2. To drive or force (a person, esp. a child) from cover. ♦ *n.* A flock of birds that has been frightened from cover. [Lat. *shēn*.]

**flush·ing** (*flūsh'ing*) *n.* 1. A section of New York City in N.Q. on W Long I.; site of two world's fairs (1939-40 and 1964-65). See *VLISSINGEN*.

**fluor·ter** (*flūst'ər*) *tr. & intr.v.* -tered, -ter·ing, -ters 1. To become nervous or upset. ♦ *n.* A state of agitation, confusion, excitement; traffic that put the driver in a flutter. [MI *fluster*, agitation, prob. of Scand. orig. See *pleu-* in App.]

**flute** (*flūt*) *n.* 1. *Music* a. A high-pitched woodwind instrument consisting of a slender tube closed at one end with a reed and having holes on the side and an opening near the closed end through which the breath is blown. b. Any of various similar woodwind instruments, such as the recorder. 2a. An ornate shaft of a column, for example. b. A similar groove or furrow on a piece of furniture. 3. A tall narrow wineglass.

**flut·ing**, **flutes** —*tr.* 1. *Music* To play (a tune) on a flute. 2. To produce in a flutelike tone. 3. To make flutes in (a song, for example). —*intr.* 1. *Music* To play a flute. 2. To sing, speak with a flutelike tone. [ME *floute* < OHG. *flutan* (cf. *flaut*, perh. a blend of *flaujol*, flageolet + *laut*; lute; see LUTE).] —*flut·y adj.*

**flut·ter** (*flūt'ər*) *v.* a. *flutters* 1a. Any quick winglike parts. b. *flutters* 1b. To fly about restlessly. 2. To move or beat unceasingly. 3. To be agitated, excited, or worried. 4. To dissipate; waste. b. *flutters* 1c. A fold of cloth that covers the front of trousers. b. *flutters* 1d. A flap that covers a tent or the like. b. *flutters* 1e. A fly ball. 6a. The act of appearing or approaching, as in the air. b. *Nautilus*. 6b. To pilot (an aircraft) or space vehicle. 6c. To perform in a spasm. 6d. To avoid; shun. 6e. *flutter* 2. A fold of cloth that covers the front of trousers. b. *flutters* 3. A flap that covers a tent or the like. b. *flutters* 4. To fly over the stage, esp. drop curtains, and etc. b. *flutters* 5. Chiefly British A onlooker. b. *flutters* 6. To state; let fly. 1. To sing, speak, or write on the fly. 1. On the fly. [ME *flen* < OE *flefan*]

**flut·ter** (*flūt'ər*) *n.* 1. Chiefly British Slang. b. *flutters* 1. Chiefly British A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 2. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 3. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 4. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 5. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 6. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 7. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 8. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 9. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 10. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 11. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 12. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 13. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 14. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 15. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 16. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 17. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 18. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 19. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 20. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 21. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 22. A person who flutters. b. *flutters* 23. 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